

(d) the steps proposed to check such rise of AIDS among children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) The reported cumulative number of full blown AIDS cases among children below the age of 14 years as on 31st July, 2000 is only 512, as cases of full blown AIDS are often not reported.

(b) and (c) There is a gradual increase in HIV infection among the children over the years. The main reasons for the increase in HIV infection among the child population are:

- (i) increasing number of HIV infected mothers due to overall increase in HIV transmission in the general population; and
- (ii) sexual exploitation of street children.

(d) Government of India has initiated a pilot project for prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV infection (MTCT) in 11 centres spread over five high HIV prevalent States in the country, namely, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Manipur.

The Street children have been identified as one of the major group to be targeted for preventing the spread of HIV infection. A comprehensive strategy of behaviour change communication, counselling, provision of health services and empowering them by creating an enabling environment for sustained change of behaviour is being implemented.

WHO Help for Antirabies Programmes

2831. SHRI K. C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the average number of deaths reported in the country every year due to rabies;

(b) the average number of deaths due to rabies in Karnataka;

(c) whether WHO has come forward to render technical and financial help and knowhow for implementation of rabies control programmes in the country; and

(d) if so, the steps, if any taken by Government to get the help from WHO?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) and (b) As per information provided by the Central Bureau of Health Intelligence the number of deaths due to rabies in India for the years 1996, 1997 and 1998 are 622,655 and 566 respectively. The number of deaths due to rabies in Karnataka for the same years are 61,34 and 36 respectively.

(c) and (d) WHO organised an informal intercountry consultation from 31st March to 2nd April, 1998 at Delhi to chalk out Regional Strategy for elimination of Rabies for the South East Asian Region.

Technical support in the form of consultants has been provided by the WHO. Besides, financial support through the WHO Biennium (country budget) continue to be provided to Government for its Rabies Control Programme.

Running of Homoeopathic colleges without permission

2832. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many Homoeopathic colleges are run by some institutions, without obtaining necessary permission;

(b) if so, which are those institutions;

(c) whether these institutes are being run by politicians; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) and (b) The institutions running the courses which have not so far been recognised by Central Council of Homoeopathy are in the statement enclosed. (See below)

(c) The Government have no information.

(d) Does not arise.